

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 1, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claims 32-41 remain in this application.

Claims 32 and 38 have been amended.

Claims 32-33 and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Endoh et al.

Claims 32-41 stand rejected over Sakamoto.

Information Disclosure Statement of April 19, 2004

The Examiner indicates that the IDS of April 19, 2004, does not comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98, and MPEP 609. Applicants submit that the concise explanation of the references has been submitted in the form of the translation of the Korean Office Action. MPEP § 609 A (3) specifically permits the submission of the translation:

“When the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.”

Applicants submit all the content of the IDS of April 19, 2004, was in compliance with the Rules and the MPEP. Applicants attach another copy of the non-initialed form and ask the Examiner to initial all documents, including the two Korean references that were submitted on April 19, 2004.

Objection to the Specification

In response to the examiner's objection to the specification, applicants have amended the

relevant section of the application.

Rejection Of Claims Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Applicants have amended claims 32 and 36 to address the antecedent basis issues. Applicants submit all claims now comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Rejection Of Claims 32-33 And 36 Over Endoh et al.

Claims 32-33 and 36-37 stand rejected over Endoh et al. Applicants traverse.

Claim 32 recites:

“ a write circuit, configured to write data in the memory cell, for supplying a write voltage and a write control voltage, thereby causing an alteration in a write state of the memory cell, for changing the supply of the write control voltage in order to slow down the alteration, and for terminating the alteration amid slowing down the alteration,

wherein the write control voltage is applied to a drain electrode of the memory cell.”

Endoh et al. shows a system in which data is written in a memory cell by changing the voltage that is supplied to the control gate. Claim 32 receives a system in which data is written by changing a write control voltage applied to a drain electrode. Endoh et al. does not disclose this configuration. Accordingly, claim 32 is allowable over Endoh et al. Dependent claims 33 and 36-37 are allowable at least because of the reasons set forth above.

Rejection Of Claims 32-41 Over Sakamoto

Claims 32-41 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over Sakamoto. Applicants traverse.

Claims 32 and 38 each recite:

“ wherein the write control voltage is applied to a drain electrode of the memory cell.”


Similar to Endoh et al., Sakamoto writes data by changing the voltage that is supplied to the control gate. As each of claims 32 and 38 specify that the voltage is applied to the drain, each of claims 32 and 38 are allowable Sakamoto as Sakamoto fails to disclose this structure.

Dependent claims 33-37 and 39-41 are allowable for at least similar reasons.

It is believed that no fee above the extension of time fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 accordingly. No additional claim fees are believed due. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to debit our deposit account no. 19-0733.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: September 1, 2004

PTO-1449 (Modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 01701.00676	SERIAL NUMBER 10/656,139
	APPLICANT Tomoharu Tanaka et al.	
	FILING DATE September 8, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT Unassigned



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO	
	2001-44902	06/2001	Korea			X	
	2000-35375	06/2000	Korea			X	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Korean Office Action along with English Translation

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial citation if reference was considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance to MPEP 609 and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	